

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE**

**November 12, 2020
6:00 pm**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on November 12, 2020, 6:00 pm at East Ridge City Hall. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order.

The Mayor stated we are following COVID-19 recommendations for social distancing. Each person will have two empty seats between them and the next person, as well as empty rows. Citizens may sit in empty seats with no sign attached to them. People who cannot abide by these rules may be asked to leave the room. Plexiglass partitions have been installed between Councilmembers and staff sitting on the dais. He stated no one should approach the dais before or after the meeting and immediately exit after the meeting ends.

David Topp, Principal at Belvoir Christian Academy, gave the invocation. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present were: Mayor Williams, Vice Mayor Helton, Councilmember Cagle, Councilmember Chauncey, Councilmember Witt (remotely), City Manager Dorsey, City Attorney Litchford, and City Recorder Middleton.

City Attorney Litchford stated as a result of the Governor's executive orders, and Mayor Williams and City Manager Dorsey issuing a state of emergency, as well as Councilmember Witt attending the meeting virtually, a determination has been made in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are conducting this meeting partially by electronic means as well as a public meeting.

Presentation by Hamilton County Register of Deeds Marc Gravitt of the Register's new Property Fraud Alert System – Marc Gravitt, Register of Deeds, congratulated Vice Mayor Helton and Councilmember Witt on being reelected. Mr. Gravitt stated in the last few years, there has been an increase in paper terrorism, which includes mortgage fraud, deeds, and liens recorded. He stated he is bound by law to record a deed even if it is fraudulent. He stated his office has developed an in-house program to send email notifications to property owners that a fraudulent deed has been filed. Soon this will also expand to text messages. There is no cost to the property owners.

Presentation to the Needy Child Fund from the East Ridge Police Department for No-Shave November – Chief Allen allowed officers to grow a beard and make a \$25 donation to the Needy Child Fund. He presented a check for \$640 to the Needy Child Fund.

Presentation to Jeffrey Stubblefield - Winner of the State of Tennessee Summer Tristar Reads competition for the Elementary School division – Mayor Williams presented a plaque to six-year-old Jeffrey Stubblefield for winning this competition by reading 39,000 minutes over the summer.

Presentation of Proclamation to an East Ridge Veteran in Honor of Veterans Day – Mayor Williams presented a proclamation to Mr. Curtis Revels, a 94-year veteran from World War II and the Korean War, for his service to his country.

Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes October 22, 2020 Council Meeting
- B. Approval of September 2020 Financial Report

Councilmember Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Helton, to approve the Consent Agenda. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Communication from Citizens:

Robbie Burgess, 6712 Jordan Run, has concerns about the additional soccer fields at Camp Jordan, such as flooding, traffic safety, property safety, property value loss, etc. He also had several questions concerning this development that the Mayor will answer after everyone has spoken.

Doug Goode, 6722 Jordan Run is opposed to the additional fields because of noise and light pollution concerns.

Bill Bethune, 6728 Jordan Run, is concerned about lights at night and noise at the soccer development.

Bobby Hickman, 6750 Jordan Run, suggested citizens put darkening curtains to keep the light out. He suggested the city employees turn off the field lights at night, but says he does like the lights at night. If property values go down, it would decrease the amount of taxes homeowners have to pay.

Kathy Fields, 6726 Jordan Run is concerned about kids coming on her property, and the lights and noise.

John Woodham, 6700 Jordan Run, stated he has PTSD and is bothered by the noise.

Mayor Williams stated he will contact everyone that spoke before the next Council meeting with answers to their questions.

Communication from Councilmembers:

Councilmember Cagle thanked the Street Department for asphalt work they did in the area of Walgreens and on Gibson Street. He also wants to find a resolution to the issues in Jordan Run regarding the soccer fields.

Vice Mayor Helton stated she wants to address all the concerns of residents in Jordan Run and find a resolution. She also thanked everyone who supported her during the election.

Mayor Williams stated he will get back with everyone who brought forward their concerns about the new soccer fields.

Councilmember Witt thanked everyone that voted for her. She stated she has driven through the back side of Camp Jordan to look at where the new soccer fields would be.

Robbie Burgess asked to speak again and asked if Council was aware of the flooding issues where the new soccer fields would be. He stated the water could get 10 to 15 feet deep.

Mayor Williams discussed the following:

- He thanked the citizens who voted and thanked all the candidates. He congratulated Vice Mayor Helton and Councilmember Witt for being reelected.
- Yesterday was Veterans Day and the Mayor reiterated he wants to honor all our veterans and Mr. Revels for their service to our country.
- He congratulated Jeffrey Stubblefield for his accomplishment of reading 39,000 minutes over the summer.
- The Action Church clothes closet and food pantry will be this Saturday from 12:00 – 3:00 pm. Workers will promote social distancing.
- On Sunday, November 15th, there will be a community Thanksgiving service at the Red Wolves stadium, sponsored by the East Ridge Ministerial Association.
- On November 17th at 10:30, the Library will have a virtual “Storytime on the Farm.”
- Chief Allen came forward to remind everyone about Click It or Ticket beginning on November 16th. Seat belt enforcement will be stepped up.
- Sadly, the City has cancelled the 2020 Christmas Parade due to COVID-19.

Communication from City Manager:

- Mr. Dorsey stated we only had 13 applications for the Christmas Parade as of the deadline.
- Finance Director Qualls gave a debt report, stating the City borrowed \$1.8 million for a term of 15 years at 2.54% interest. The loan closed on November 10th.
- Mr. Dorsey stated that the liquor store referendum passed in East Ridge. People have been calling about what the next step will be. He stated that an ordinance will be drafted, and Council will vote on the procedures. Council will make the decision as far as the number of stores allowed which could be by lottery, requests for qualifications, etc. After review, depending on how they are picked, the City would issue a Certificate of Compliance, which has to go to the Alcoholic Beverage Commission with their application for a license to be issued by the State. Mr. Dorsey stated that rumors that licenses cannot be issued until July 1, 2021 are incorrect.

Old Business:

PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE NO. 1138 – Rezoning of 406 Broughton Street – City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Mayor Williams opened the public hearing. Mr. Litchford stated the tax map number should be corrected to reflect the correct tax map number to read 157-H-E-022. Building Official Howell stated this property was zoned to O-1, now the property

owner wants to rezone it back to R-1. The East Ridge Planning Commission approved the request. No one came forward in favor of or in opposition to the rezoning. The Mayor closed the public hearing.

ORDINANCE NO. 1138 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO AMEND THE ZONING REGULATIONS AND THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE SO AS TO REZONE THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 406 BROUGHTON STREET, TAX MAP #157H-E-002, FROM O-1 OFFICE DISTRICT TO R-1 RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (2nd and final reading) - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Mr. Litchford restated the caption needs to be corrected to reflect the correct tax map number of 157H-E-022. He stated it was incorrect from the RPA. Councilmember Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Helton, to approve Ordinance No. 1138 on second and final reading subject to the correction of the tax map number to 157H-E-022. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

New Business:

RESOLUTION NO. 3094 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, APPROVING BIDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF SOCCER UNIFORMS FOR THE 2020 - 2021 INDOOR SOCCER SEASON - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Mr. Dorsey stated that we received nine bids, with staff recommendation to award the bid to Krown USA. We have used them in the past. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Helton, to approve Resolution No. 3094. The vote was unanimous.

RESOLUTION NO. 3095 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PUBLIC ENTITY PARTNERS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT INNOVATION CENTER'S POLICE RISK MANAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Community Involvement Coordinator Bowers stated this grant allows officers to attend training in Murfreesboro for free. Vice Mayor Helton made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Chauncey, to approve Resolution No. 3095. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3096 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE ADVANCEMENT OF STATE SALARY SUPPLEMENT PAYMENTS FOR ELIGIBLE FIREFIGHTERS AND POLICE OFFICERS - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Finance Director Qualls stated we advance the supplement every year and are reimbursed in the spring. Councilmember Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to approve Resolution No. 3096. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3097 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPROVE THE ATTACHED CHANGE ORDER REQUEST FROM INTEGRATED PROPERTIES, LLC, IN REGARD TO STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS ON BOYD STREET - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Philip Schofield with CTI

Engineers, stated that, when digging, Integrated Properties found an existing storm pipe full of debris. The change order will be in the amount of \$48,410 to replace this pipe. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Chauncey, to approve Resolution No. 3097. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Discussion of Tentative Agenda Items for the December 10, 2020 Council Meeting (see Attachment A)

Presentation of FY 2020 Audit – HHM Certified Public Accountants

Mayor Williams would like to add appointments to the Beer Board and Library Board for the next meeting.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.